



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET™

**KIRKWOOD ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
City of Kirkwood
139 S. Kirkwood Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
February 12, 2014: 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Members: Mary Hanson, Terry Sibbitts, Zoe Perkins, Susan Grigsby, Jim Weidman, Agnes Garino, Judy Roberts. Council Liaison: Art McDonnell. Staff Liaison: Beth von Behren. Guest Speaker: Phyllis Ravensberg.

ABSENT: None.

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Arts and Culture Commission convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 12, 2014, in the main-level conference room at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road.

I. Introductions:

- a. The mayor started the discussion with a brief history of how the Commission came into existence. Kirkwood Area Arts Council was discussed. They have about \$12,000 in their account. Pat Jones will continue to work this year with Kirkwood Parks & Recreation on the summer concert series in the park, and that schedule is mostly complete.
- b. Commission members introduced themselves and provided a background on their involvement in the arts.

II. Officer Selection: The floor was open for nominations. Agnes Garino was nominated and her nomination seconded for Commission Chair. Her nomination was approved unanimously by a voice vote. Zoe Perkins was nominated and her nomination seconded for Commission Vice Chair. Her nomination was approved unanimously by a voice vote. Susan Grigsby was nominated and her nomination seconded for Commission Secretary. Her nomination was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

III. Standard Meeting Date Selection: Discussion ensued of possible standard meeting dates. No definitive meeting date and time was agreed upon. However, the next meeting will occur on Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall.

IV. Discussion of Kirkwood Area Arts Council with Phyllis Ravensberg and Agnes Garino

- a. Phyllis Ravensberg reported that Kirkwood Area Arts Council (KAAC) BECAME A 501-3c organization in 2005. Their funding comes from memberships, donations, grants, and a "pass the hat" at summer concerts.
- b. They sponsor the "Making Music" concerts on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, June through August, and 11 juried art shows, January through November, in the "Art at the Station" series, which includes an opening reception for each show. They are also a partial sponsor of Opera Theatre St. Louis' "Little Lunch Music" concert series each summer. One of the venues for that concert series is the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood.
- c. Expenses: They pay for the bands. Use of the amphitheatre is donated by the City. They pay for invitations (Art at the Station), refreshments, programs, and ads in the Webster-Kirkwood times.



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- d. New in 2013: Food trucks at the summer concert series.
- e. KAAC also gets commissions from the sale of art at “Art at the Station.”
- f. October is the big membership push.
- g. Gateway Foundation grant is due November 1. They received \$2,000 in 2013.

V. Big Picture Goals:

- a. Agnes Garino reported on the research she has done with arts commissions and committees in other cities. Some cities have public art exhibits, and some only have arts activities. University City’s Commission works with Washington University on public art and has existed since the 1970s. Maryland Heights does an International Festival.
- b. There is no one way, or one model, of how to structure an arts commission. We can consider a variety of models.
- c. Phyllis reported that there are a lot of opportunities and potential for the Kirkwood Commission, including branching out into literary activities and public art. She asked if the City, for example, has an inventory of public art in Kirkwood.
- d. The idea to develop an Arts Calendar was discussed. Commission members will send events and organizations they know about to Beth, who will start to develop the calendar.
- e. Art and Beth will meet with John Hessel to discuss how to work with donations and whether or not the City should establish a 501c organization for donations.
- f. The question was raised as to whether the City could apply for state grants and funding if it didn’t have a 501c organization.
- g. Discussion ensued on: Why do we need the Kirkwood Arts & Culture Commission – what’s missing? Agnes suggested:
 - i. There is more potential.
 - ii. We need more volunteers (than the Kirkwood Area Arts Council has).
 - iii. Attending other city meetings for ideas – she could use help with that.
 - iv. She would like to have a public art program – we (KAAC) don’t have the volunteers to do that.
 - v. We could do a lot more if we had a bigger structure.
- h. Phyllis suggested:
 - i. Consistency: This has been a problem – with volunteers leaving the group.
 - ii. Being appointed to a City-sponsored Commission adds a seriousness to the group. It will make it stronger.
 - iii. KAAC could be just the fundraising arm.



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- i. Agnes suggested that the Commission should work on (in the short-run): Goal-setting, a public art program, getting public feedback, creating a mission statement (and the process to achieve the mission), having a plan of action.
- j. Commission members agreed that their first priority is to establish an inventory of arts programming and events already planned in Kirkwood and promoting that to residents and the community. The issue of a working Website also needs to be addressed. KAAC's current Website was not up and running at the time of the meeting.
- k. Action item: Beth will send the City logo to Terry Sibbitts, who will work with students at Meramec, and Mike Swoboda, to create something that incorporates the City logo.
- l. Action item: Beth will create an email list for Commission members to use to communicate via email.
- m. Action item: Commission members will send their list or inventory of area arts programming to Beth.

VI. Adjourn: 8:30 p.m.

Submitted:

Agnes Garino, Chair

Susan Grigsby, Secretary

Date Approved